

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTING**

**Friday, October 19, 2012
Council Chambers, Audrey Beck Municipal Building
Minutes**

Members Present: Deputy Mayor Toni Moran (Chair), Mayor Elizabeth Paterson, Chris Paulhus

Other Council Members Present: David Freudmann, Bill Ryan

Staff Present: Maria Capriola, Matt Hart (*Town*), van Zelm (*MDP*)

The meeting was called to order at 8:38 a.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike Road. Spoke to the ordinance review and consideration process.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road. Suggested that local contractors be consulted to determine how a responsible contracting ordinance may impact them.

Pat Suprenant, Gurleyville Road. Expressed an interest in having the meetings audio recorded, holding the meetings at a different time, and having guest speakers. She also stated concerns with the legality of such an ordinance.

Greg Zlotnick, Wormwood Hill Road. Expressed concern that a responsible contracting ordinance will have a negative impact on open shop contractors (such as his business).

2. RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTING ORDINANCES

Moran stated that the merits of such an ordinance will be reviewed and discussed, as well as sample ordinances from communities around the State. She expressed concerns about language re: apprenticeship programs being included in the ordinance. Paterson and Paulhus both stated that they have not yet formed an opinion on the merits of such an ordinance but that if implementation of such an ordinance will negatively impact local business, they will not support the creation of a responsible contracting ordinance.

3. NEXT STEPS

The Committee will work to determine: 1) whether there is a benefit to the Town to adopt a responsible contracting ordinance and 2) whether adoption of the ordinance will further Council policy goals. Next steps will include:

- Bring in guest speakers/outside experts
 - Independent Contractors Association

- Local contractors
- Department of Labor to discuss apprenticeship programs
- Representatives from trades unions
- Staff from other towns that have implemented responsible contracting ordinances
- Staff from Mansfield: Trahan, Hultgren
- Learn more on topics of interest
 - Apprenticeship programs
 - Healthcare and fringe benefit requirements
 - Successes and challenges other communities have faced upon implementation of a responsible contracting ordinance
 - Crafting language that ensures a “level playing field” for both organized labor and open shop contractors
 - Legal protections that already exist to protect workers and contractors such as anti-discrimination laws

The Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet again on November 5th at 9am. At that meeting the Committee will develop a list of questions and concerns. The Committee requested information on apprenticeship programs from the Department of Labor website. The September 10th Town Council packet materials on responsible contracting will be redistributed to Committee members.

The Committee agreed that when possible, the meetings will be audio-recorded. The Committee will attempt to rotate between evening and daytime meetings, but with the understanding that meeting times will need to accommodate the availability of guest speakers.

Paulhus made the motion, seconded by Paterson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Maria E. Capriola, M.P.A.
 Assistant Town Manager, Town of Mansfield